

Gus Hall Meets Press on U.S., China

By FRED GILMAN

GUS HALL told the press Sunday that the changes in Soviet leadership would not affect the basic policies of the U.S. Communist Party.

"Our policies of the fight for peace, civil rights and the struggle against the ultra-Right are still the main roles of the U.S. party," he said at press conference at the Statler-Hilton Hotel prior to the annual Worker banquet.

Hall interpolated the remarks he made to the press into his banquet speech later in the afternoon.

"I am confident," Hall said, "that the Soviet Union remains the bulwark of world peace."

He said that the steps toward peace taken by the Soviet Union are "irreversible trends."

"They have deep roots in Soviet society," Hall continued. "They are not the brainchild of any one man. Khrushchev made a contribution toward world peace and the struggle for communism. It is my belief that history will treat him well."

Hall expressed the opinion

that Khrushchev made errors in his method of work, that it seemed from the course of events that Khrushchev bypassed the collective in making decisions.

"The vagueness surrounding the event," said Hall, "I think means that the Soviet leaders did not contemplate or plan to make the change at this particular time. But I have a feeling they have been discussing this for some time."

He said he thinks that Khrushchev was criticized and instead of accepting the criticism he resigned.

"It is in this area," Hall said, "that the question of ill health and advancing age played a role. As you know the older you get the more set in your ways you become. I believe this is what happened to Khrushchev."

Hall pointed out that the Soviet Union has become very sensitive to any bureaucratic tendencies. He said that such sensitivity was a positive development.

"I wouldn't be surprised, however," Hall said, "if Khrushchev thinks things over and still plays a role in the building of a Communist society."

On the question of China's nuclear explosion, Hall said it was "a serious event and would lead to problems."

"The expenditure and energy to develop that device was not necessary," Hall said. "China should have accepted for their defense the nuclear umbrella pledged by the Soviet Union to all socialist countries."

He said, however, that as long as the arms race continues, the development of nuclear bombs will continue.

"This week it is China," he

said, "next week it is France, and we are continuing underground testing."

Hall welcomed the suggestion by the People's Republic of China for a world ban on all nuclear tests.

The need for disarmament becomes ever more critical," he said.

Hall said he was sure the new Soviet leadership will utilize the change to see whether new negotiations with China can be opened. "I think that would be all to the good," he said. "change in personnel always helps to find new avenues and new openings."

He said the U. S. Communist Party was still in favor of convening the Dec. 15 preparatory meeting in Moscow.

"The only possibility I see now for a postponement of the meeting," Hall said, "is if the Chinese leadership expressed the wish for more time to think over their refusal to attend."

He said the U. S. party had not decided yet who it would send to Moscow as its representative.

"I can't go," he said, "because of my McCarran Act indictment."

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

17 Jan 66

SUBJECT: Criticism of Director Raborn and CIA in the Press

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1. This memorandum summarizes [redacted] charges which have been made ^{in the press} against Director Raborn since April 1965, as well as ~~several~~ several of the attendant charges of poor Agency morale and performance.
 2. Attachment A cites the source of the ^{15 selected} newspaper and magazine articles upon which this study was based. Attachment B lists the themes used in these articles, with cross reference to the source or sources.
 3. ~~Revised~~ This memorandum supplements my 13 December 1965 memorandum on "Press Attacks on Director Raborn," which reported on what this office knew about the background of Joseph Kraft, Richard Dudman, Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, Marianne Means, Marquis Childs, ^{and} Ted Lewis--insofar as their critical articles about the DCI were concerned.
 4. The major charges in this campaign are:
 - a. Admiral Raborn has had no intelligence background and is also unable to understand the nuances of professional ~~reporting~~ evaluations or to report it correctly to the White House.
 - b. Under his administration, CIA is losing out to DIA and the FBI in the high policy councils.
 - c. Since the new DCI has no regard for the professional feelings of his staffers morale at the Agency is rapidly sinking.
 - d. ~~Both~~ ^{Both} public and Congressional confidence in the Agency have waned.
 - e. Raborn's overly dramatic presentation of the threat of communism during the Dominican crisis later embarrassed the Administration.
 - f. Criticism of Raborn is widespread among the highest officials of Government
 - g. Raborn was selected by the President merely to be a short-term caretaker of the Agency and to improve its relations with Congress, but he has been ineffective.

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